

**Active READING GUIDE**

from ***Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*** by Jonathan Edwards (page 101)

In this excerpt from *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*, Edwards chastises in vivid, fiery language those he calls sinners. He uses imagery and repetition to clarify his position. At the core of this selection are a few basic points. Use the diagram below to outline Edwards's argument as you read. Try to condense his points into a sentence or two.

**What is the sin?**



**What will happen to these sinners?**



**Why have these sinners not been punished?**



**What threat does Edwards make?**



**What solution does Edwards propose?**

# Vocabulary

## PRACTICE

### from Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God (page 100)

#### VOCABULARY

**wrath** *n.* extreme anger; vengeful punishment

**appease** *v.* to bring to a state of peace or quiet; soothe

**abate** *v.* to lessen or reduce in force or intensity

**incensed** *adj.* made very angry

**prudence** *n.* exercise of good and cautious judgment

**abhor** *v.* to regard with disgust

**abominable** *adj.* disgusting; detestable

#### EXERCISE A Words in Context

Write the word from the word list that belongs in the blank in each sentence.

1. In choosing a car with an excellent safety record, he showed \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Her bad temper can escalate from irritation to \_\_\_\_\_ in seconds.
3. Violent movies turn my stomach; I \_\_\_\_\_ them.
4. He's terribly angry with you! Only a sincere apology will \_\_\_\_\_ him.
5. The theft of the money that we raised for the fire victims was \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Mark's selfish, cruel behavior toward my sister really \_\_\_\_\_ me!
7. He's furious now, but his anger won't last. It will quickly \_\_\_\_\_.

#### EXERCISE B Applying Meanings

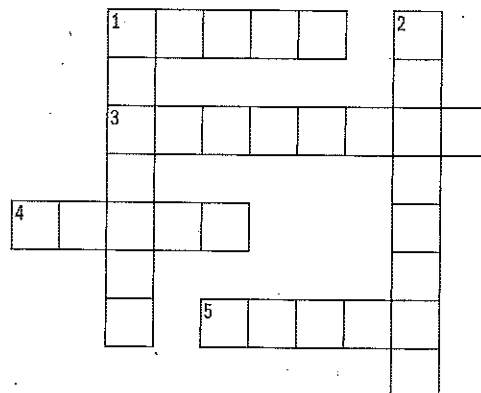
Complete the puzzle by writing the vocabulary word that is a synonym or near synonym for each clue. Use a dictionary if you need help.

##### Across

1. despise
3. vigilance
4. fury
5. diminish

##### Down

1. pacify
2. enraged



#### EXERCISE C Responding to the Selection

Imagine that before dismissing Jonathan Edwards, the members of the congregation interviewed him, hoping to get him to tone down his fiery rhetoric. On the back of this sheet, write the interview that might have taken place. Use at least TWO of the vocabulary words in your interview.

**Imagery** is the collection of mental pictures in a literary work. Sensory images appeal to one or more of the five senses.

Example: hell is gaping for them, the flames gather and flash about them, and would fain lay hold on them and swallow them up; . . .

List images from the excerpt from *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* that appeal to the senses indicated in the chart below.

<b>Sight</b>
<b>Hearing</b>
<b>Touch</b>

Provide examples of effective imagery from "The Fish" on page 23.

from *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*

**Interacting with Text** Understanding Figurative Language

In some figures of speech, two unlike things are compared in a nonliteral way. In a **simile**, the figure of speech is signaled by the word *like* or *as*. In a **metaphor**, a comparison is made without the use of *like* or *as*.

**EXERCISE A.** Read the following passages from *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*.

**Passage 1**

The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect, over the fire . . .

**Passage 2**

The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string, and justice

bends the arrow at your heart, and strains the bow, and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood.

**EXERCISE B.** Read the following questions for the first passage. Find the text that will help you answer each question. Underline the text. Then answer the questions on the lines provided.

1. What two things are being compared in a figure of speech? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What word indicates whether the figure of speech is a simile or a metaphor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EXERCISE C.** Read the following questions for the second passage. Find the text that will help you answer each question. Underline the text. Then answer the questions on the lines provided.

1. What two main things are being compared? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to the author, in what way are these two things alike? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What specific figure of speech is the author using? Explain how you know.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## SELECTION QUICK CHECK

Score

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from ***Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*** by Jonathan Edwards (page 101)

Use complete sentences to answer the following questions.

1. What does the spider's web image mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. According to Edwards, who are the sinners? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. With whom is God angry? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does Edwards believe is the fate of most of the members of his congregation? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who are the people feasting, singing, and rejoicing? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

